

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03
PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 MCT-01 PM-05 SS-15 NSC-05
/101 W

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R 061005Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9380
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
USMISSION GENEVA
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA
MAC SCOTT AFB IL
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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DEPT. PASS FAA

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ASEC, JA

SUBJECT: INEFFECTUAL OPPOSITION AT NARITA

REF: TOKYO 9999

1. ANTI-NARITA AIRPORT MOVEMENT STAGED MASS DEMONSTRATION IN AIRPORT VICINITY JULY 2, AS PART OF CONTINUING "100 DAYS OF STRUGGLE" CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED JUNE 5 TO CLOSE NEW FACILITY. POLICE ESTIMATED 5,200 DEMONSTRATORS, INCLUDING A FEW DIE-HARD OPPOSITION FARMERS, RESIDENTS IN NARITA AREA PROTESTING AIRPORT NOISE AND MEMBERS OF VARIOUS RADICAL GROUPS, TURNED OUT FOR THE RALLY. ALTHOUGH MASS DEMONSTRATION ITSELF ENDED PEACEFULLY, SMALL GROUPS OF RADICALS LATER ATTEMPTED TO BREAK THROUGH ONE AIRPORT GATE WITH TRUCK LOADED WITH GASOLINE BOMBS, WHICH EXPLODED WHEN TRUCK RAMMED INTO POLICE VAN GUARDING GATE. MEANWHILE, SEPARATE GROUPS BURNED RUBBER AUTO TIRES AND LAUNCHED BALLOONS AND KITES ON OUTSKIRTS OF AIRPORT IN EFFORT TO IMPEDE AIR TRAFFIC. HOWEVER, THESE EFFORTS WERE LARGELY INEFFECTUAL. ALTHOUGH PRESS REPORTED THAT TEMPORARY BLOCKAGE OF AIRPORT GATE CAUSED SOME INCONVENIENCE TO ARRIVING PASSENGERS TRAVELING TO DOWNTOWN TOKYO, FAA OFFICIALS STATIONED IN TOKYO SAID THEY RECEIVED NO REPORTS OF FLIGHT DELAYS. ACCORDING TO SOURCES IN NATIONAL POLICE AGENCY, PROTESTS DID NOT REALLY POSE CHALLENGE TO 10,000 NARITA POLICE DEFENDERS, AND WITH ONLY ONE MORE MAJOR OPPOSITION MOVEMENT DEMONSTRATION CURRENTLY SCHEDULED (AT END OF 100 DAY CAMPAIGN SEPTEMBER 17), POLICE BELIEVE THEY HAVE NARITA PROBLEMS UNDER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTROL.

2. COMMENT: FORTY-FIVE DAYS SINCE NARITA OPENING HAVE WITNESSED SPORADIC EFFORTS BY EXTREMIST GROUPS TO DISRUPT AIRPORT OPERATIONS, MOST NOTABLE INCIDENT BEING ATTACK ON RADIO RELAY STATION IN IBARAKI PREFECTURE JUNE 24, DURING WHICH TEN ATTACKERS TEMPORARILY ABDUCTED TWO POLICEMEN AND HURLED FIREBOMBS AND ACID VIALS INSIDE STATION, INJURING ONE POLICEMAN, BUT FAILED TO STOP STATION OPERATION. ON JUNE 23, OIL SLICKS AND INSECTICIDE WERE FOUND IN RESERVOIR NEARBY AIRPORT, APPARENTLY RESULT OF RADICAL EFFORT TO SABOTAGE NARITA WATER SUPPLIES. HOWEVER, ONLY RECENT FATALITIES CONNECTED WITH NARITA, THOSE OF FIVE POLICEMEN KILLED WHEN HELICOPTER PATROLLING AIRPORT VICINITY CRASHED JUNE 29, WERE RESULT OF ACCIDENT.

3. SINCE AIRPORT OPENING, MUCH STEAM HAS CLEARLY GONE OUT OF NARITA OPPOSITION. GOJ APPEARS CONFIDENT IT IS MOVING STEADILY TOWARD SOLUTION OF FARMERS' GRIEVANCES, AND IS OPTIMISTICALLY PREDICTING THAT FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF CURRENT "100-DAY" CAMPAIGN, MASS OPPOSITION WILL ALL BUT CEASE. FAILURE OF ORGANIZED RADICAL GROUPS

TO CAUSE MORE THAN MINOR INTERRUPTIONS OF AIRPORT SERVICE SINCE MAY 20 HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING. MOREOVER NPA SOURCES HAVE TOLD EMBOFFS THAT MAJOR RADICAL GROUPS HAVE SHIFTED ATTENTION TO OTHER ISSUES NOW THAT AIRPORT IS OPEN AND PRESS IS NO LONGER GIVING DAILY FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE TO EVERY SMALL INCIDENT CONNECTED WITH NARITA. IT IS, HOWEVER, UNCLEAR WHETHER PROGRESS TOWARD SOLUTION OF FARMERS' GRIEVANCES WILL ALSO PUT END TO EFFORTS OF EXTREMISTS TO SABOTAGE AIRPORT FACILITIES. MANSFIELD

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